United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, D.C. 20240

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OCIO TECHNICAL BULLETIN NO. 2003-nnn

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To: Solicitor
            Assistant Secretaries
            Inspector General
            Heads of Bureaus and Offices
            Bureau Chief Information Officers

From: W. Hord Tipton
            Chief Information Officer

Subject: Peer-to-Peer file sharing restriction

Purpose

This bulletin provides the policy that specifically prohibits peer-to-peer (P2P) file sharing software.

Background

P2P file sharing programs, such as KaZaA, MyNapster and Gnutella allow users to transfer files between computer systems without proper security checks. These programs can be used to violate copyright laws, distribute pornographic materials and put government information at risk.

Examples of P2P networking software include but are not limited to the following; Ares, Bearshare, Blubster, Cheetah, Crapster, DC++, Direct connect, eDonkey, File Miner, File Navigator, Filetopia, Freewire, Gnucleus, GoMP3, Grokster, iMesh, KaZaA, Limewire, Morpheus, MyNapster, WinMX, PHEX, Piolet, Shareaza, Prune Baby, SwapNut, URLBlaze, XoLoX, and Yaga.

Scope

This bulletin applies to all departmental offices and bureaus within the Department of Interior.

Time Frame

This bulletin is effective immediately.

Policy/Action

Prohibiting Peer-to-Peer File Sharing Software: Peer-to-peer file sharing programs on any Department of the Interior computer network or system is prohibited. The department will review bureau networks for compliance with this policy thirty days from the date this bulletin is issued.

Contact

If you have any questions regarding this bulletin, please call Stu Mitchell in the IT Security Management Division of the Office of the Chief Information Officer at 202-208-5444 or via e-mail at stu_mitchel@ios.doi.gov.